



the new children's museum™

200 west island avenue san diego, california 92101 t 619 233 8792 f 619 233 8796 thinkplaycreate.org

**media contacts**

Emily Yu  
619 795 1265/  
858 926 6247 (cell)  
[eyu@thinkplaycreate.org](mailto:eyu@thinkplaycreate.org)

Toni Robin  
858 483 3918  
[tr@trprsandiego.com](mailto:tr@trprsandiego.com)

**THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM RAISES OVER \$750K AT ANNUAL GALA**

*Guests experienced a dazzling circus-inspired evening while supporting access programs*

**Nov. 15, 2022 — Downtown San Diego** — The New Children's Museum welcomed 525 guests and brought in over \$750K at its Circus Spectacular fundraising gala co-chaired by Ellen Moxham, Jennifer Luce and Laurie Mitchell. Proceeds from the November 5 event support the Museum's access programs providing free or discounted admission for 30% of its visitors, ensuring more children in San Diego can experience art and play.

Known for its themed galas, The New Children's Museum completely transformed into a circus, with guests dressed in "circus chic" attire being entertained by pop up performances including jugglers, stilt walkers, a tightrope walker, a silk aerialist and more.

Outside on Island Avenue, gala guests were able to ride on a 40-foot lighted Ferris wheel with spectacular views of the Museum and downtown skyline. Other highlights included guests trying their hand at carnival games, singing karaoke in the Museum's art installation, [Teatro Piñata](#), and dancing the night away to live music by 80s band BetaMAXX.

"The incredible turnout and record funds raised at this year's event demonstrates the tremendous community support of The New Children's Museum and belief in the importance of providing access to art for all children in San Diego," said Elizabeth Yang-Hellewell, Executive Director and CEO of The New Children's Museum.

The Museum also hosted an art auction featuring work by several nationally renowned artists, including Ryan McGinness, Michelle Montjoy, Eva Struble, Regan Russell, David Reynoso, Marisol Rendón, Ingram Ober, Wes Bruce, Christian Garcia-Olivo, Carlos Castro Arias, Andrea Chung, Ernest Silva, Jennifer Luce, Katie Ruiz, and Louis M. Schmidt. Artists in attendance at the event included Marisol Rendón ([Wobbleland](#)), Michelle Montjoy ([Breathing Room](#)), Regan Russell ([Energized](#)), Ingram Ober, Christian Garcia-Olivo, and event co-chair Jennifer Luce.

Catering was provided by Feast on This and bar service was provided by San Diego Wine and Culinary. Raphaels Party Rentals, Pep Creative and Maktive handled the décor, rentals, lighting and production.

Presenting sponsors were the Albatross Foundation and Maryanne and Irwin Pfister. For a full list of sponsors, [click here](#).

### **Key Event Photos**

- [Gala Co-Chairs: Jennifer Luce, Ellen Moxham, and Laurie Mitchell \(left to right\)](#)
- [Executive Director Elizabeth Yang-Hellewell \(right\) and Chief Curator Gabrielle Wyrick \(left\)](#)
- [Circus Spectacular Dance Floor](#)
- [Circus Spectacular Performers](#)
- [Click here for more photos](#)

***All images credited to David Hartig.***

### **About The New Children's Museum**

The New Children's Museum's mission is to spark creativity, exploration and a sense of belonging through interactive art experiences. Located downtown, the Museum collaborates with contemporary artists to design and create art installations and educational programs for children. The Museum brings families together in a rich educational environment that fosters creativity — blending the best elements of children's museums, contemporary art museums and community resources. In 2023, the Museum is celebrating 40 years serving San Diego and 15 years as The New Children's Museum in its downtown location. To learn more, visit [thinkplaycreate.org](http://thinkplaycreate.org) or follow them on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).